

# Militant Army aims to win 2,000 plus new readers

**FROM THE EDITOR**

This week we are beginning a weekly letter from the editor to the Militant Army—the workers, farmers, and others volunteering to join in the six-week campaign to sell *Militant* subscriptions door to door in working-class neighborhoods in cities and towns across the United States and in other countries.

## Door to door with the Militant Army

The campaign aims to get the newspaper into the hands of working people who have begun to react in new ways over the past few months to the accumulating blows to our living and working conditions after three years of the growing world capitalist crisis. As supporters of the *Militant* responded earlier this year to mobilizations of working people in Wisconsin and elsewhere in the Midwest, we

**Continued on page 6**

# White House presses more ‘killer ops’ and drones

**BY BRIAN WILLIAMS**

In the aftermath of the May 2 killing of Osama bin Laden at his compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, by a U.S. Navy Seal team, Washington continues to bolster its use of special operations forces and drone assassination attacks.

“Since the beginning of last year the Obama administration has embraced the hunter-killer mission with vigor,” noted the *Wall Street Journal*.

Three days after the commando raid in Pakistan, the U.S. military launched a drone missile strike in southern Yemen aimed at killing New Mexico-born Anwar al-Awlaki, a U.S. citizen. The targeted Muslim cleric was not killed, but two other purported al-Qaeda members were.

The Pentagon’s Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC), which also directs the Seals, is in charge of the attacks against Yemen, with help from the CIA. Over the past two years Washington has launched cruise missiles at Yemen from Navy ships and munitions from Marine Harrier jets.

On May 6 the CIA unleashed an-

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# Unemployment rises as bosses hype ‘new jobs’

3 years into crisis, gov’t calls it ‘transitory’



**BY CINDY JAQUITH**

Despite rose-colored headlines in much of the big-business press reporting some 244,000 “new jobs” in April, the truth is that the government’s official unemployment rate went *up* in April to 9 percent. And the number of unemployed in just that one month

grew by 205,000—roughly the population of Spokane, Washington, or Montgomery, Alabama.

Writing on the financial website MarketWatch, Heather Boushey noted that the share of workers jobless for more than six months “has hovered above 40% for 17 months—highs not seen since the Bureau of Labor Statistics began tracking this data in 1948.”

President Barack Obama responded

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# ‘Secure Communities’ used to push back workers rights

**BY CINDY JAQUITH**

The Barack Obama administration is aggressively expanding its “Secure Communities” program, a major component of the government’s increasing links between federal agencies and local cops, and part of the broader as-

sault on the rights of working people. Under Secure Communities the fingerprints of every person booked into custody—whether or not they are ever convicted—are sent to the FBI, which forwards them to the Department of Homeland Security.

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Kay Fiebelkorn, packinghouse worker for 23 years, signs up for subscription at home in Austin, Minnesota, May 7. At right is Militant Army volunteer Maggie Trowe. Like many workers, Fiebelkorn has been hit hard by capitalist crisis. She turns 65 next year, but can’t afford to retire since she injured her shoulder on job and must pay thousands for rehabilitation.

Spring ‘Militant’ subscription campaign				
April 23–June 6 (week 2)				
Country	quota	sold	%	2,000
UNITED STATES				
San Francisco*	150	82	55%	
Philadelphia*	100	54	54%	
Los Angeles*	160	86	54%	
Des Moines*	160	63	39%	
Atlanta*	165	61	37%	
Twin Cities*	150	55	37%	
Chicago*	150	53	35%	
Miami	75	25	33%	
Seattle*	160	53	33%	
New York	330	99	30%	
Houston*	65	18	28%	
Washington	110	28	25%	
Boston*	60	10	17%	
Total U.S.	1,835	687	37%	
Canada	65	15	23%	
New Zealand*	65	20	31%	
Australia*	60	25	42%	
UNITED KINGDOM				
Manchester	25	0	0%	
London*	90	41	46%	
Total UK	115	41	36%	
Total	2,140	788	39%	
Should be	2,000	667	33%	
*Raised Quota				

# Socialist workers to hold conference in Ohio June 9–11

**BY PAUL MAILHOT**

Workers and young people from the United States and a number of other countries are organizing to participate in an international socialist education and active workers conference in Oberlin, Ohio, June 9–11. The Socialist Workers Party, which sponsors the gathering, invites participation

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# Miami cops gun down 7 Black men in 7 months

BY NAOMI CRAINE

MIAMI—“The police should be made to pay for wrongdoing, like anyone else,” said Sheila McNeil. Her son, Travis McNeil, was killed by a Miami city police officer on February 10. Sheila McNeil is one of many relatives of people killed by the cops here in recent months who have marched in the street and spoken out before the Miami City Commission. “We’re not going away. We need some answers and some changes,” she stated.

Travis McNeil, a 28-year-old construction worker, was shot and killed instantly after being pulled over by police while driving his cousin, Kareem Williams, home from a club. Williams was shot three times, but survived. He says the cop opened fire without saying a word. Both men were unarmed.

The police handcuffed McNeil, who was already dead, and left Williams on the ground for at least 20 minutes before taking him to the hospital, Sheila McNeil said in an interview. “There is no way the police should be judge, jury, and executioner.”

McNeil was the seventh Black man killed in as many months by Miami police. DeCarlos Moore was shot last July 5, also after a traffic stop. Police have refused to release information on his death to the Civilian Investigative Panel, which is supposed to have powers to investigate police abuses.

Joell Lee Johnson and Tyrell Gaye were shot and killed within nine days of each other, both by the same member of the police gang unit.

Lynn Weatherspoon was killed early

New Year’s Day. Relatives and neighbors who were there say police opened fire from an unmarked SUV without ever identifying themselves. Gibson Belizaire and Brandon Foster were also killed by cops in August and December respectively.

Dozens of people packed the Miami City Commission March 24 to speak out against these killings. Many returned on April 28.

City Commissioner Richard Dunn—in whose district the shootings have taken place—and some of those organizing against police brutality are demanding the resignation of Police Chief Miguel Exposito. He endorsed a pilot for a “reality television” program that showed Miami police brutalizing African Americans on the streets, and features the cop who killed McNeil.

At the April 28 City Commission meeting Rev. Anthony Tate, who has been organizing some of the protests, said that what’s needed is “a change of leadership in the police department,” including more hiring and promotion of Black cops.

John DeLeon, president of the Amer-



Friends and relatives of seven men shot by cops in recent months descend on police headquarters March 3 to demand justice. “We’re not going away,” Sheila McNeil, whose son Travis was gunned down in February, told the *Militant*.

ican Civil Liberties Union, called for strengthening the Civilian Investigative Panel. He denounced the statement earlier that day by State Attorney Katherine Fernandez-Rundle that several of the police shootings were justified. “A police officer can shoot a fleeing felon in the back,” she declared. “That is the law.”

“I’m here 70 days after my son’s death and I know no more than last time I was here,” declared Sheila McNeil. “What do you guys plan on doing about the

situation in the community? I don’t see it getting better,” she said, referring to both the economy and the police.

Deborah Liatos, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Miami-Dade County, issued a statement expressing solidarity with those fighting police brutality. “Instead of backing yet another ‘community review board’ or government investigation that only covers up for the cops,” she said, “we demand to prosecute and jail the cops responsible.”

## Mumia death sentence ruled unconstitutional

BY JOHN STUDER

PHILADELPHIA—The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit ruled unanimously April 26 that political activist Mumia Abu-Jamal’s death sentence is unconstitutional. This is the third time in the past 10 years that a federal court has made this ruling.

Abu-Jamal, a journalist and former

member of the Black Panther Party here, has been on death row for 29 years, following a frame-up conviction on charges of murdering a cop.

Abu-Jamal was convicted in a trial riddled with racist prejudice, political malice, and police intimidation. Since his arrest, Abu-Jamal and supporters of his defense have fought against the death sentence and for his freedom.

The Court of Appeals reaffirmed a decision it originally made in 2008, holding that the jury was “misled” by the judge and prosecution into believing that they had no option other than to impose the death penalty. They also found that “ultimate responsibility” for the death sentence hanging over Abu-Jamal lies with the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, which repeatedly upheld the frame-up, ignoring the clear violation of his constitutional rights.

“This decision marks an important step forward,” John Payton, director-

counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, told the press, “again acknowledging the existence of clear constitutional error in Mr. Abu-Jamal’s trial.” The NAACP defense fund is cocounsel in Abu-Jamal’s efforts to overturn his conviction.

The Philadelphia district attorney’s office, backed by the Fraternal Order of Police, Democratic and Republican political figures, and other supporters of the cops, has used every legal avenue to fight the three federal court decisions overturning the death penalty.

Current district attorney Seth Williams announced that he would appeal the ruling to the Supreme Court, rather than convene a new sentencing hearing.

“It’s really an unfortunate fact that, yes, the criminal justice system in Philadelphia . . . in America has a history of problems and racism. I understand all of that,” Williams told the press. “But this is not one of those cases.”



Satellite dish disguised as surfing gear that U.S. agents tried to install in Cuba.

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# Syrian regime sustains crackdown on rebellion

## Demonstrations spread to new areas of country

BY SETH GALINSKY

The Syrian regime has killed more than 750 people, most of them shot down at demonstrations against the government of President Bashar al-Assad since mid-March. More than 9,000 are in jail as Assad continues a bloody crackdown in an effort to crush the popular nationwide rebellion.

Protests, while smaller than in previous weeks, have spread to new towns, according to news reports.

The government has used snipers to fire on demonstrations and funerals, gone door to door to arrest opponents, and in at least four towns—the port of Baniyas; Homs, near the Lebanese border; Daraa, along the Jordanian border; and Tafas, in the south—used army tactics to suppress the protests.

In Daraa, where the rebellion began, the government cut off electricity, water, and communications during an 11-day siege. As of May 10 phone service had still not been restored.

According to some reports, the military has also sealed off the Damascus suburb of Maadamiyeh.

In Baniyas, 500 women protested May 9 demanding the release of 1,700 arrested there.

“You can’t be very nice to people who are leading an armed rebellion,” Syrian government spokeswoman Bouthaina Shaaban told a *New York Times* reporter, who was only allowed into the country for a few hours.

“If there is no stability here, there’s no way there will be stability in Israel,” businessman Rami Makhlouf told the *Times*, in an appeal for Washington and other imperialist powers to not “put a lot of pressure” on Damascus to end the crackdown. Makhlouf, who has amassed a fortune from his close relationship to Assad, is hated by many working people in Syria. Offices of his mobile phone company were burned down in Daraa during the recent wave of protests.

Washington and the European Union have announced financial sanctions against some members of the Syrian government, although they have not imposed any on Assad.

Both Washington and Tel Aviv have been at odds with the Syrian government for decades. Syria was the first to be added to Washington’s “state sponsors of terrorism” list, where it remains today. Before the rebellion, however, the U.S. and Israeli rulers had increasingly come to view Assad’s regime as one they could work with. And both fear the possible consequences for their interests in the region if it falls.

The regime is based largely on capitalist families from the Alawite Muslim minority. Assad has also cultivated support from a layer of Sunni and Christian merchants. Most Syrians are Sunni, but there are also substantial number of Christians, Druze, and Kurds.

Along with the fierce repression, the regime has claimed that if Assad were overthrown divisions among the country’s various religious and ethnic groups would explode. “No to discord,” one progovernment poster put up in Damascus reads. “Freedom doesn’t begin with ignorance, it begins with awareness.”

As the regime’s violence continues, hundreds of residents of Tell Kalakh, near the Lebanese border, crossed into Lebanon looking for safe haven.

## Washington uses more ‘killer ops,’ drones

Continued from front page

other CIA Predator drone attack in North Waziristan in Pakistan near the border with Afghanistan, killing at least 15 people. The missiles damaged a restaurant and nearby home. It was the 195th CIA drone attack against Pakistan since Obama took office.

The current administration has increased Predator assassination attacks fivefold, killing four times as many “terrorist” suspects by Predators in 27 months than the George W. Bush White House did in eight years, wrote *National Review* columnist Victor Hanson.

In the days since the bin Laden killing, media reports and accounts from the Seal assault team have made clear that the only shots fired at the Seals came from the guest house shortly after the U.S. squad landed. A man and woman in that outbuilding were killed. Nobody in the main house where bin Laden resided was carrying a weapon.

The policy was to kill any adult male while “neutralizing women,” wrote William Saletan in a May 5 *Slate* article titled “Their Fates Were SEAled.” Bin Laden’s son coming down the stairs was shot dead, while a woman who reportedly “rushed toward” the Seals as they entered an upstairs bedroom was shot in the leg. Then “without hesitation” the same commando “put two fatal bullets in a man standing in pajamas”—bin Laden.

Only one woman killed, one wounded, and no children dead or injured—that’s more than can be said for most U.S. drone attacks.

The raid involved secretly crossing the border from Afghanistan and flying



Demonstrators wave bread in port city of Baniyas, Syria, May 3 demanding end of brutal Bashar al-Assad regime. Government has gone door to door arresting opponents.

over more than 120 miles of Pakistani airspace. It was conducted without informing Pakistani authorities beforehand, in violation of the country’s sovereignty.

Prior to the assault, Obama gave the go-ahead to engage Pakistani troops in an armed confrontation if they interfered with the operation. The president doubled the size of the attack force traveling to the compound. Four Black Hawk helicopters instead of the original plan of two were sent to Abbottabad, one of which was damaged while landing.

The U.S. military dubbed the mission “Operation Geronimo,” leading to calls by Native Americans for Obama to apologize for using this name. Equating the Apache leader, who led resistance to the dispossession and genocide of Native Americans, to Osama bin Laden was insulting, Suzan Shown Harjo, a member of the Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, told a Congressional hearing May 5. “Geronimo EKIA!”—enemy killed in action—was the Seals’ radio message after they fired two shots, one into bin Laden’s left eye.

Since 2009 the Obama administration has increased the number of U.S. “strike teams” in Afghanistan from 4 to 20. Each has 10 to 100 men, unnamed U.S. officials told the *Journal*. Over the past year special operations forces have conducted some 11,500 operations in Afghanistan, killing some 3,200 “insurgents” and capturing 8,000.

Plans are in the works to increase the number of such missions in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and beyond under JSOC’s command. JSOC controls the Pentagon’s three classified “special-mission” units: the Army’s Delta Force

and the Air Force’s 24th Special Tactics Squadron, in addition to the Seals.

There are currently 61,000 U.S. special operations troops, up from 45,500 in 2001. This accounts for about 5 percent of all U.S. active duty forces. Over the past decade Special Operations Command’s budget grew from \$2.3 billion to nearly \$10 billion today.

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

### CALIFORNIA

#### Los Angeles

**Why Working People Should Oppose the Extension of the California Tax Increases.** Speaker: Norton Sandler, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., May 20, 7:30 p.m. Suggested donation: \$5. 4025 S Western Ave. Tel.: (323) 295-2600.

### ILLINOIS

#### Chicago

**Obama Says ‘Ordinary Folks Aren’t Paying Attention,’ Communists Say Political Responsiveness in Working Class Grows. Workers React to the Cumulative Consequences of Three Years of Capitalist Crisis.** Speaker: Maggie Trowe, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 21, 7 p.m. Refreshments before and after the program. 806 W Washington Blvd. #202. Tel.: (312) 455-0111.

### NEW YORK

#### Manhattan

**Defend Bill of Rights: Protection for Working People against Capitalist Government.** Speaker: Rebecca Williamson, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., May 20, 7:30 p.m. 307 W 36th St. 10th floor. Tel.: (212) 629-6649.

### UNITED KINGDOM

#### London

**Workers Discuss Impact of Capitalist Crisis.** Fri., May 20, 7 p.m. First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green Rd. Tel.: (020) 7613-3855.

## —CALENDAR—

### NEW ZEALAND

#### Auckland

**Drop the Charges! Forum on ‘Terror Raids’ Trial.** Speakers: Tame Iti; David Clendon, MP; Barry Wilson, Civil Liberties; Syd Keepa, CTU; Khylee Quince, law lecturer; John Minto, GPJA. Fri., May 20, 6:30 p.m. B15 Lecture Theatre (Library Basement), Alfred St., University of Auckland.

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### Miami

**Obama Says ‘Ordinary Folks Aren’t Paying Attention,’ Communists Say Political Responsiveness in Working Class Grows**

**Workers React to Cumulative Consequences of 3 Years of Capitalist Crisis**

Speaker: Steve Clark  
editor of *Militant* newspaper

**Sat., May 14**

Dinner, 6 p.m. Program, 7 p.m.  
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# Who won the election in Canada? Austerity, wars

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL—Having won the May 2 federal election, the government of Conservative Party prime minister Stephen Harper is continuing its course to make workers and farmers pay for the growing crisis of the capitalist system and to reinforce Ottawa’s participation in imperialist wars, such as NATO’s military assault on Libya and its war in Afghanistan.

The election was held as working people face deteriorating economic conditions: a million and a half unemployed, rising gas and food prices, and unrelenting cuts to education programs, including rising college and university tuition. Medical care run by the capitalist government is subjecting workers and farmers to red tape and growing waiting lists, with results injurious to the health of millions.

In a shakeup of capitalist politics, the Conservatives won well over half the seats in parliament, giving the party its first majority government since 1988. The New Democratic Party (NDP)—a social democratic party founded in 1961 and linked to the officialdom of several unions mostly outside Quebec—replaced the Liberal Party as the official opposition for the first time, winning 102 seats in the 308-seat parliament.

The NDP’s biggest gains were in Quebec where it won 58 of 75 seats, mostly at the expense of the bourgeois-nationalist Bloc Quebecois (BQ), which runs candidates only in Quebec. The BQ claims to defend the interests of the Quebecois nationality in the federal parliament and promotes Quebec sovereignty. It dropped from 49 to 4 seats.

The Liberals, who have governed for much of the time since Canada’s founding in 1867 and who consider themselves Canada’s “natural governing party,” dropped to 34 seats nationwide.

“Working people face the same chal-

lenges after the election that we did before May 2,” said Joseph Young, the Communist League candidate in the Montreal constituency of Papineau.

“The NDP’s electoral gains haven’t strengthened us. They don’t in any way represent a step along the road to independent working-class political action,” Young explained.

In the elections, many union officials urged workers to vote for “anybody but Harper” to stop a Conservative win, while others campaigned openly for the NDP or, in Quebec, backed the BQ. Whatever their stance, all of them counted on blocking a new Conservative government with some kind of NDP, Liberal, and BQ coalition cabinet—an imperialist government they hoped would be more responsive to their pressure and a little less brutal in attacking the living standards and rights of working people.

“My supporters have not ended our campaign,” Young said. “We’re going door to door to introduce the *Militant*



Militant/John Steele

Joseph Young (second from right), Communist League candidate from Papineau constituency, campaigns in Montreal April 16. His supporters are now taking *Militant* door to door to talk with workers about confronting capitalist crisis and need for workers to take political power.

to workers and farmers and to talk with them about a working-class road forward in face of the blows of the world capitalist crisis and austerity drive of the ruling rich and their government in Ottawa,” he said. “We’re building solidarity with Air Canada workers fighting against more concessions, and Gate

Gourmet airline food preparation workers on strike in Edmonton.

“And we’re explaining that working people need to build a revolutionary movement of millions to take political power out of the hands of the capitalist class and replace it with a workers and farmers government.”

## S.F., Seattle top chart in Militant Fighting Fund

BY DOUG NELSON

“I like the fact that in reading the *Militant*, the issues are clarified. When you read the articles you have to look at what’s going on and face it,” Kiley Costello, a college student at State University of New York at New Paltz, told the *Militant* when she made her pledge to the Militant Fighting Fund.

Costello is among dozens of new readers contributing for the first time to the *Militant*, which depends on donations from workers and young people who see its value as a unique voice that speaks in the interests of working people.

Halfway through the eight-week drive to win \$116,000 in contributions, the international effort is a bit behind schedule. Topping the chart are Seattle

and San Francisco, both at 69 percent. They might be able to raise their quotas, which would be a real boost.

Joel Britton, who organizes the effort in San Francisco, said supporters of the paper there plan to win a record number of new contributors this year. Among them is Britton’s coworker at an airline food service company, who gave \$15. A student who has recently been attending Militant Labor Forums gave \$20.

France, Canada, London, and New Zealand are also ahead of schedule and appear in position to possibly exceed their goals. The Militant Fighting Fund has yet to get off the ground in other areas, however.

It’s particularly important that con-

tributions are collected and sent in on a regular, weekly schedule for the financial and political success of the drive. The *Militant* comes out weekly and needs to be funded weekly.

If you are part of the fund effort, send in reports on your progress. Let readers know how many new contributors you are reaching out to and winning. Include examples with names and quotes when possible that help paint a picture of who is giving and why.

If you want to join the Militant Fighting Fund effort, contact a distributor on page 8. Funds can also be sent directly to the Militant at 306 W. 37th St. New York, NY 10018.

## Secure Communities used to curb rights

Continued from front page

ment of Homeland Security (DHS) to be checked against its databases. The DHS then has the authority to instruct local cops to detain an individual it says may be in violation of immigration law until they are taken into custody by immigration authorities, even if they haven’t been charged with a crime.

A related, expanding federal program, commonly referred to 287(g), gives designated local cops the authority to enforce immigration laws.

The Obama administration’s goal is to have Secure Communities up and running in every U.S. municipality by 2013. The program, begun in 2008 under President George W. Bush, is currently operating in 40 percent of the country, according to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The ICE website describes Secure Communities as a program “working to better identify, detain and ultimately remove dangerous criminal aliens from your community.”

In reality, it is one of the methods used to arbitrarily round up and deport immigrant workers and lays a basis for using the same tools against whom-

ever the government decides to target. In the process government agencies are amassing biometric data and other information on tens of millions of people into rapidly growing databases it claims are needed to fight “crime” and protect “national security.”

Illinois governor Pat Quinn announced May 4 that state police will no longer participate in the program. Almost one-third of all those deported in Illinois under the program were not convicted of a crime, the *New York Times* reported.

Quinn asked ICE to disband the operation in the 26 Illinois communities where it had been established. ICE replied it will review the program to see if there has been any “misconduct.”

In an April 25 interview with the *San Francisco Chronicle*, DHS secretary Janet Napolitano said state and local governments cannot “exclude themselves” from Secure Communities. “This whole opt-in, opt-out thing was a misunderstanding,” she said, referring to initial ICE statements that implied participation was voluntary. An unnamed DHS official reiterated this, stating that “Secure Communities is not voluntary and never

has been,” the April 25 *Los Angeles Times* reported.

That paper gave the example of an undocumented woman named Norma who was beaten by her companion. She called the police. They decided to arrest both Norma and her companion. So now she’s in ICE’s hands, because the cops, who decided not to charge her with a crime, complied with an ICE request to hold her until immigration cops could pick her up for lacking papers.

In California the governments of San Francisco and Santa Clara have asked to be dropped from Secure Communities. Since 2009, when the program started in that state, 78,407 workers have been arrested by ICE and 38,828 deported.

In New York, 38 state legislators and 19 members of the New York City Council have sent letters to Gov. Andrew Cuomo asking him to take the state out of Secure Communities. Currently 24 of 62 New York counties are participating.

As of February in New York, “about 80 percent of the immigrants detained as a result of Secure Communities had no record, advocates said,” the *New York Times* reported.

<i>‘Militant’ Fighting Fund</i>			
April 2–May 30 (week 4)			
Country	Quota	Paid	%
UNITED STATES			
<b>Seattle</b>	<b>\$8,600</b>	<b>\$5,976</b>	<b>69%</b>
<b>San Francisco</b>	<b>\$14,000</b>	<b>\$9,610</b>	<b>69%</b>
Twin Cities	\$7,000	\$3,424	49%
Atlanta	\$7,800	\$3,779	48%
Boston	\$4,000	\$1,789	45%
Chicago	\$10,000	\$4,215	42%
Des Moines	\$3,400	\$1,423	42%
New York	\$21,000	\$8,035	38%
Washington	\$8,500	\$2,938	35%
Miami	\$3,000	\$770	26%
Houston	\$3,000	\$666	22%
Los Angeles	\$8,500	\$963	11%
Philadelphia	\$4,000	\$425	11%
Other		\$300	
Total U.S.	\$102,800	\$44,312	43%
<b>Canada</b>	<b>\$6,400</b>	<b>\$4,325</b>	<b>68%</b>
<b>New Zealand</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>	<b>\$2,183</b>	<b>62%</b>
UNITED KINGDOM			
<b>London</b>	<b>\$1,600</b>	<b>\$1,075</b>	<b>67%</b>
Manchester	\$300	\$0	0%
<b>UK Total</b>	<b>\$1,900</b>	<b>\$1,075</b>	<b>57%</b>
Australia	\$1,500	\$641	43%
<b>France</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$255</b>	<b>85%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$116,400</b>	<b>\$52,791</b>	<b>46%</b>
<b>Should be</b>	<b>\$116,000</b>	<b>\$58,000</b>	<b>50%</b>



# Pennsylvania rally opposes state government austerity

BY JOHN STUDER

HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania—Thousands of workers rallied at the capitol here May 3 to protest budget cuts proposed by Gov. Thomas Corbett that would slash education, state services for the elderly and disabled, and wages and benefits of public workers.

Called a “rally for a responsible budget,” the action drew miners from western Pennsylvania, teachers, health-care workers, steelworkers, members of the NAACP, and unionists from every corner of the state.

The plan is to cut more than \$1 billion from public education by eliminating 3,000 jobs; cutting spending on textbooks and programs such as language, sports, music, and arts; increasing class sizes; and eliminating full-time kindergarten attended by 88,000 children last year. The plan includes \$230 million in cuts to 14 state-funded colleges, resulting in even higher tuition rates.

Also on the chopping block is emergency home mortgage assistance.

Many at the demonstration were attracted to the *Militant*. Twenty-four participants signed up for subscriptions and nearly 100 bought a copy of the paper.

Jeff Marsh, who came as part of a contingent of miners from western Pennsylvania, said he had just renewed his subscription for a year and helped sell the paper to fellow miners.

While the rally was taking place, Corbett spoke at a meeting of the Harrisburg Regional Chamber of Commerce. Claiming to be dismayed at the failure of public education, the governor advocates vouchers to divert state funds to private and religious schools.

Later in the day he spoke before the National Federation of Independent Business where he said the cuts will encourage “private-sector growth.”

The Harrisburg *Patriot-News* called the rally “one of the largest gatherings in a decade.” The paper added that it was “angrier” than past protests.

The state AFL-CIO, the central organizer of the rally, focused on calling for “shared sacrifice” between employers and workers. But many workers were interested in a fighting perspective and a class explanation for the propertied

rulers’ attempts to foist the crisis of their capitalist economic system on the backs of working people.

Workers at the rally from the Hershey chocolate plant 20 miles east of here said that they are facing continuing attacks from the candy giant. The company has pushed through wage and benefit concessions while stepping up productivity and cutting jobs. One worker bought two *Militant* subscriptions, one for herself and one for the union local hall.

The same day as the Harrisburg rally, more than 200 people crowded into a hearing at South Philadelphia High School to discuss cuts proposed for city schools—cuts school board spokespeople say are necessary because the state is slashing education funds.



Militant/John Studer

May 3 demonstration in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, against budget cuts slashing jobs, public education, and other services. In camouflage T-shirts are members of United Mine Workers.

## Airline food workers fight lockout in Canada

BY RICH THOMAS

EDMONTON, Alberta—Some 60 workers at Gate Gourmet’s plant near the airport here set up a picket line after bosses locked them out April 16.

Gate Gourmet is the world’s largest independent catering service for air-

lines and railroads. Its parent company, Gate Group, reported a \$58 million profit increase in 2010, up 36 percent from the previous year.

Members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 401 were in negotiations with the previous owners

and working without a contract when Gate Gourmet bought the company in November 2010.

Gate Gourmet tried to impose a contract that included a three-year wage freeze. When workers refused the “offer,” and were about to send in their strike notice, the company immediately locked them out.

Workers point out that the price of gas alone has doubled over the last two years. Many live in the city and drive 40 kilometers (25 miles) to work.

The company has threatened to shut down the plant in an attempt to cow workers into accepting the concessions, according to union representative Dee Mae Beler. The bosses’ hard-line approach indicates what they have in mind for Gate Gourmet contracts up for renewal in Calgary and Montreal.

“Gate Gourmet has brought in managers and temporary staff from Calgary and Vancouver to keep production going,” said Varinder, a picket captain. “But the workers are strong people and we’re not going to be intimidated by the company’s strong-arm tactics.”



Militant/Rich Thomas

Food workers locked out by Gate Gourmet picket airport in Edmonton, Alberta, May 2.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



May 23, 1986

CHILLICOTHE, Missouri—More than 10,000 farmers, unionists, and young people participated in a May 7 rally to support the ongoing farm protest here.

Since March 17, several hundred farmers with tractors and combines have been involved in a round-the-clock blockade of the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) office. The FmHA is a federal lending agency that is supposed to loan money to particularly hard-pressed farmers.

The farmers are demanding the removal of the FmHA supervisor since he has granted only nine loans in the last year. The farmers are also demanding emergency credit so they can plant this spring, fair prices for their products, and a moratorium on farm foreclosures.



May 22, 1961

Two integrated interstate buses were waylaid in Alabama March 14 by white supremacists who destroyed one bus with a magnesium fire bomb and gave bloody beatings to passengers on the other. The attack was aimed at 16 Negro and white “Freedom Riders” organized by the Congress of Racial Equality for a trip from Washington, D.C. to New Orleans testing integration on interstate buses in the deep South. Federal law forbids forced segregation on buses traveling between states.

The Greyhound reached Anniston, Ala. first, where it was met by a racist mob. The Trailways bus stopped near Anniston and was boarded by whites who beat the “Freedom Riders” with fists and bottles. They stopped when a policeman entered the bus, but no arrests were made, and the bus drove on.



May 23, 1936

Five thousand cotton croppers and day laborers, members of the Southern Tenant Farmers’ Union, will hang up their hoes and strike for higher wages. They are now being paid a wage ranging from 60 cents to 75 cents per day, working from sun-up to sun-set. Their demand is for \$1.50 per 10 hour day.

In Memphis the Cotton Carnival is in full swing. Wealth wrung from King Cotton’s slaves is being lavishly poured out for the extravagances of this festival. While King Cotton’s retinue feasts from the fat of the land, millions of slaves from the cotton country live in wretchedness and want. With thousands unable to get either crops or jobs and with hundreds of thousands of others barely existing on starvation wages, the slaves of King Cotton are in open revolt.

### New International

A MAGAZINE OF MARXIST POLITICS AND THEORY

Issue Number 14

Includes:

**The Clintons’ Antilabor Legacy: Roots of the 2008 World Financial Crisis**

by Jack Barnes



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# ‘Workers appreciate us hearing their opinions’

BY PAUL MAILHOT

SAN FRANCISCO—“I like that the paper talks about what is happening in other parts of the world,” said Tim Cameron, an ironworker who recently subscribed to the *Militant* in Pittsburg, California. “That’s important education for workers in this country.”

Cameron was talking to socialist workers who stopped by his house Sunday, May 8, for a follow-up discussion about the *Militant* and to see if he’d like to buy a copy of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics* by Jack Barnes, a book being offered for just \$10 with a subscription. He did. Cameron said he noticed the *Militant* was running a fund drive, which he also contributed to. (See Militant Fighting Fund article on page 4.)

Over the past week, the *Militant* supporters on the West Coast have been organizing daily door-to-door teams to sell subscriptions. We’re reaching out to working people with a fighting perspective to respond to the growing crisis of the capitalist system, and finding receptivity to what we have to say.

Eric Simpson and Zack Randolph from San Francisco, along with this reporter, joined socialist workers in Seattle in early May to knock on doors in neighborhoods where workers live. In West Seattle a retired union carpenter said he didn’t support public workers who’ve demonstrated this year to maintain their living and job conditions and defend their unions. “The government just can’t afford that anymore,” he said.

A worker who lives nearby said he was familiar with his neighbor’s views but doesn’t agree. He works in one of the many electronics plants in the area, and his wife is a teacher. He said he knew what the fight by public workers is about and liked what the *Militant* explains about working-class solidarity. He bought a subscription.

Simpson, this reporter, and Edwin Fruit from Seattle then traveled to Los Angeles May 5 to join the door-to-door effort there. “Workers appreciate that we want to hear their opinions,” said Fruit. He described selling subscriptions to workers who described themselves in all kinds of ways politically—conservatives, liberals, and otherwise—but were interested in talking to socialist workers about what’s in the *Militant*.

Efren Quintana was short on cash the first day we met him. “He bought a single copy and asked us to come back for the subscription,” said Simpson. When the team returned, Efren explained that he had showed it to several coworkers where he works as a gardener at the port of Los Angeles. He invited Simpson to return another day at lunchtime for a discussion with his coworkers about the *Militant*’s working-class outlook, and supporters in Los Angeles are organizing to do so.

Fruit said he has gotten into the habit of carrying the paper on him wherever he goes, so he’s always prepared for discussions about the *Militant*. On Fruit’s flight back to Seattle, a nursing student in the seat next to him explained how her views had changed about U.S. government policy in Iraq and Afghanistan. She has family members in the military and had been in favor of those wars. Now she thinks Washington should get out.

She was also interested in how workers can fight for better living and job conditions. Fruit sold her a subscription.

“Don’t go anywhere without a *Militant*, a sub blank, and a couple of books,” he said.

Seven subscriptions were sold on the first day of door-to-door sales by a team in the San Francisco Bay Area that includes several supporters of the paper there, as well as Arlene Rubenstein from Los Angeles and this reporter.

“Things were going good for a few years,” a construction worker told a team member. “I bought a house and was working steady. But that only lasted three years. I no longer have the house and now I’m interested in the *Militant* newspaper, so things really have changed.”

## Join Militant Army to win 2,000 new readers

Continued from front page

found a noticeable increase in receptivity to the radical working-class political perspectives presented in the paper. This includes the need for a revolutionary struggle in the United States to take political power out of the hands of the wealthy families who rule this country.

More than 1,000 new subscribers signed up between mid-February and late April—a number unprecedented for decades during a period when no organized sales campaign was under way.

What’s more, this interest in the paper registered a much broader political responsiveness among working people, not just in the Midwest but across the country. We’re going door to door in small towns and rural areas, as well as in cities. We’re talking with and selling subscriptions to workers who are Caucasian, Black, Latino, and from other backgrounds. We’re exchanging views with workers from the big majority today who are not in unions, as well as those who are—and with those calling themselves Republicans, Democrats, liberals, conservatives, libertarians, and independents.

A little more than two weeks into the drive, 788 subscriptions have been sold—39 percent of the international goal (see chart on front page).

That’s 6 percentage points ahead of schedule. Good! But it’s down from 10 points ahead at the end of the first week. That’s something every volunteer organizer for the Militant Army needs to take into account in planning teams for the week ahead.

During a substantial upturn in working-class receptivity to this newspaper in the closing years and just after the inter-imperialist slaughter of World War II, the editor and staff members appealed to a Militant Army (the name of a weekly column) to reach out as broadly as possible to working people with our revolutionary working-class perspectives. We’re doing so again today.

So far during the current campaign, volunteers in 10 of the 13 cities in the United States that have adopted subscription quotas have raised their initial goals, along with those in 3 of the 5 cities in other countries. That pushes the combined quotas to 2,140—putting us



Militant/Arlene Rubenstein

Militant Army volunteer Eric Simpson (left) sold Efren Quintana a *Militant* subscription in his neighborhood in the Los Angeles area. Quintana showed the paper around to coworkers at the port of Los Angeles where he works as a gardener.

on track to meet and go well over the international goal during the next month.

This 13 percent increase so far—amounting to an additional 250 regular readers of the paper by the end of the drive—could go even higher with discussions by supporters in other cities about opportunities to win more subscribers in working-class communities.

Militant Army volunteers in Philadelphia, for example, have raised their quota twice since late April—a 33 percent jump to 100 subscriptions. Janet Post reports these subscriptions were sold not only there, but to workers in Bethlehem, Hershey, Bridgeport, and other cities and towns in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

An accompanying article by circulation director Paul Mailhot reports on his participation over the past week in sales teams organized from three West Coast cities. In each of them, Militant Army volunteers have raised their initial quotas: Seattle (a 15 percent jump to 160), Los Angeles (nearly 30 percent to 160), and San Francisco (25 percent to 150).

Ron Poulsen reports from Sydney, Australia, that socialists sold three subscriptions last week going door to door in Unanderra, a township in the Wollongong district where workers in steel plants and textile mills have been hard hit by the capitalist crisis. Volunteers in Sydney raised their quota by 50 percent

to 60 subscriptions, and are well ahead of schedule this week.

Supporters in Washington, D.C., who had sold only six subscriptions at the end of the first week of the campaign, are now out of the starting blocks. At 28 subscriptions, still a bit behind schedule, they’ve made a quarter of their initial quota. Volunteers in Manchester can take courage from such progress.

As supporters of the *Militant* go door to door to win new readers for the paper, we’re also finding interest in *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working Class Politics and the Trade Unions* by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, as well as three other books being offered on special discount together with a subscription (see ad on this page).

We encourage volunteers to send in reports on your experiences selling subscriptions, as well as photographs like you see on this page and on the front of this issue.

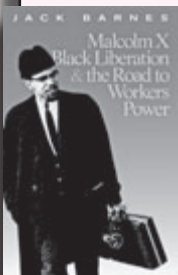
If you’re interested in becoming part of the Militant Army, contact volunteers in one of the areas listed on page 8 or write us to get a bundle of the *Militant* to sell to friends, neighbors, family members, and coworkers.

In solidarity,

*Steve Clark*  
Editor

### Special offers with Militant subscription

**Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power**  
by Jack Barnes ~~\$26~~ **\$10 with subscription**



This book helps us understand why it is the revolutionary conquest of power by the working class that will make possible the final battle for Black freedom—and open the way to a world based not on exploitation, violence, and racism, but human solidarity. A socialist world.

**Changing Face of U.S. Politics**  
**Working-class politics and the unions**  
by Jack Barnes ~~\$24~~ **\$10 with subscription**

A handbook for those seeking the road toward effective action to overturn the exploitative system of capitalism and join in reconstructing the world on new, socialist foundations.



**Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?**  
by Mary-Alice Waters ~~\$7~~ **\$5 with subscription**

**The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning**  
by Jack Barnes ~~\$3~~ **\$2 with subscription**

Contact distributors on page 8—subscription rates on page 2

Pathfinder Press



# We build movement in U.S. to emulate Cuba's example

Message from U.S. socialist leader to Communist Party of Cuba on occasion of its Sixth Congress

*Below is a May 2 message from Jack Barnes, national secretary the Socialist Workers Party on behalf of the party's National Committee to Raúl Castro Ruz, First Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC), on the occasion of the PCC's Sixth Party Congress held April 16–19.*

**BY JACK BARNES**

The National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party sends its warmest fraternal greetings and congratulations to the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba on the success of the Sixth Party Congress.

Your congress opened on April 16, following celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the massive Havana rally at which Fidel announced to the world the socialist character of the Cuban Revolution. That solemn occasion five decades ago mobilized the working people and youth of Cuba for the battle that would go down in history as the first military defeat of U.S. imperialism in the Americas. Playa Girón demonstrated what toiling humanity is capable of when ordinary men and women fight for their principles with the leadership they deserve. That political and moral victory, as important as its military counterpart, has stayed Washington's hand ever since.

We joined you in celebration on the 16th. Your congress then turned to the work before you in 2011. A few days later our National Committee convened a meeting to do the same.

The unprecedented world capitalist crisis—of which we have experienced only the opening years—has already had a devastating impact, not only on toilers around the world but also on the lives and livelihoods of millions of working people in the U.S. who have lost, or live in daily fear of losing, their jobs, their homes, their meager life savings, their access to medical care, and their hopes for younger generations. The reaction to the cumulative toll this has already taken has begun to express itself in many ways, including the recent sizeable mobilizations of workers and farmers in Wisconsin, Ohio, and elsewhere throughout the wider Midwest. Working people are beginning to *react* against the consequences of the dictatorship of capital. They are starting to

question and increasingly to reject the endless web of bourgeois nostrums long peddled by capitalist politicians of every hue.

As communists whose sole reason for being is to build a proletarian revolutionary movement capable of emulating here in the bastion of imperialism what the workers and farmers of Cuba accomplished more than half a century ago, and the workers and peasants of the tsarist empire more than forty years before that, we have learned the folly of exaggerating the pace of objective changes in the class struggle here or elsewhere. Revolutions are not the product of wishful thinking.

We are convinced, however, that what is today occurring is a measurable shift in broad objective responsiveness within the working class to ideas and perspectives most would not even have been considered a few years ago. We have already begun to see this registered in the broader and more thoughtful consideration given by working people to the program put forward in the pages of our weekly newspaper, the *Militant*. There is a new openness to discuss, to look for explanations and radical, popular answers that depend on class solidarity and combativity. Not to rely on “those who created this mess” to begin with. Most importantly, this broad shift in responsiveness is irrespective of perceived electoral affiliations. Whether workers and farmers identify themselves as Democrat, Republican, Independent or Libertarian, conservative, liberal or whatever, the interest in serious and civil exchange is similar.

These are changes of vital importance. They shape the world the leadership of the Cuban Revolution as well as we ourselves confront. This is the context within which we have followed with closest attention and solidarity the economic and political challenges the Communist Party of Cuba has been dealing with in the months leading up to and through the Sixth Congress. The newly elected Central Committee and Political Bureau—the leadership decisions that have, to the best of anyone's ability, placed the most experienced, tested, and capable cadres in positions of greatest responsibility—are especially important.

For our part, we will continue to do



Reuters/Enrique de la Osa

**Cubans demonstrate in defense of revolution during April 16 military parade in Havana celebrating 50th anniversary of Cuban victory over U.S.-backed mercenary invasion at Bay of Pigs. Event marked opening of Sixth Party Congress of Communist Party of Cuba.**

everything we can to make the living example of the Cuban Revolution understandable and accessible to working people in the United States, and to the youth who are attracted to their struggles. This will be even more important as new struggles are forced upon us all by the deepening crisis of capital.

At the center of our efforts will con-

tinue to be the battle to win the freedom of our Five Cuban comrades who, against their will and ours, today serve with honor on the front lines of the class struggle in the United States. Their dignity and steadfastness remain the most powerful expression of the character of the revolution that made them. They will return.

## Conference in Havana called to win support for Cuban Five

**BY DOUG NELSON**

**AND REBECCA WILLIAMSON**

The Union of Young Communists of Cuba (UJC) is hosting its third international conference in solidarity with the Cuban Five June 12–13 in Havana. The gathering will be followed by a two-day youth seminar on the relevance of Ernesto Che Guevara's political work and legacy today.

The Cuban Five—Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, and René González—were framed up and railroaded to prison by the U.S. government. They have been incarcerated since 1998, with sentences ranging from 15 years to double life.

Lacking any evidence of actual or attempted illegal acts, the five were convicted on fabricated “conspiracy” charges, including “conspiracy to committee espionage.” Hernández, who is serving double life plus 15 years, was convicted of “conspiracy to commit murder,” based on allegations that he bore responsibility for the Cuban government's decision in 1996 to shoot down two hostile aircraft flown by counterrevolutionaries from South Florida that invaded Cuban airspace.

The real “crime” of the five? They had been tracking the activities of Cuban American paramilitary organizations in South Florida with a long history of armed assaults and acts of sabotage against Cuba, groups tacitly backed by Washington for decades.

The government frame-up was marked by numerous violations of constitutional rights. This included use of secret evidence and refusal of defense

motions to move the trial out of Miami, where the five faced a particularly difficult atmosphere of intimidation and political bias. The international defense campaign for their freedom has won growing support worldwide.

The stated purpose of the Third International Youth Gathering in Solidarity with the Cuban Five is to “break down the wall of silence that the United States government imposes on public opinion about the case, to denounce the manipulation and the lies of an arbitrary and unfair trial and to demand immediate freedom for our five brothers.”

The two-day International Seminar on the Relevance of Che's Ideas for the International Youth Movement Today opens June 14, marking Che Guevara's 83rd birthday. A central leader of the Cuban Revolution in its early years, he was captured and murdered in a CIA-organized operation in Bolivia in 1967.

Both events provide an opportunity for young people to learn more about the Cuban Revolution and its living example, demonstrating that socialist revolution is possible and what working people can accomplish by conquering political power.

Recent changes to U.S. travel laws include certain provisions under which young people may be able to attend these gatherings, despite how these regulations are crafted to restrict people from traveling to the island who simply want to learn more about the revolution, let alone act in solidarity with it.

For more information contact socialists in your area listed on page 8 or email the Young Socialists at [youngsocialists@mac.com](mailto:youngsocialists@mac.com).

## Cuba and the Coming American Revolution \$10



**by Jack Barnes**

The Cuban Revolution of 1959 had a worldwide political impact, including on workers and youth in the imperialist heartland. As the proletarian-based struggle for Black rights was advancing in the U.S., the social transformation fought for and won by Cuban toilers set an example that socialist revolution is not only necessary—it can be made and defended.

## Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs \$22

*Washington's First Military Defeat in the Americas*



**by Fidel Castro, José Ramón Fernández**

Fifty years ago, in less than 72 hours of combat, Cuba's revolutionary armed forces defeated a U.S.-organized invasion by 1,500 mercenaries. In the process, the Cuban people set an example for workers, farmers, and youth the world over that with political consciousness, class solidarity, courage, and revolutionary leadership, one can stand up to enormous might and seemingly insurmountable odds—and win.

## Soldier of the Cuban Revolution \$18

*From the Cane Fields of Oriente to General of the Revolutionary Armed Forces*



**by Luis Alfonso Zayas**

Luis Alfonso Zayas, a general in the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces, recounts his experiences over five decades in the Cuban Revolution and tells how he and other ordinary men and women in Cuba changed the course of history and, in the process, transformed themselves as well.

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# Malcolm X: ‘We must learn to think for ourselves’

Below is an excerpt from *Malcolm X Speaks*. The Spanish edition is one of *Pathfinder's Books of the Month* for May. At the end of 1964, a delegation of 37 teenagers from McComb, Mississippi, visited New York. Their trip was sponsored by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee for youth active in the civil rights struggle in their hometowns. Toward the end of their stay, on Jan. 1, 1965, the McComb youth visited the Hotel Theresa in Harlem to learn what Malcolm X stood for. The following is a portion of what he told them. Copyright © 1965 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BY MALCOLM X

One of the first things I think young people, especially nowadays, should learn is how to see for yourself and listen for yourself and think for yourself.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Then you can come to an intelligent decision for yourself. If you form the habit of going by what you hear others say about someone, or going by what others think about someone, instead of searching that thing out for yourself and seeing for yourself, you will be walking west when you think you're going east, and you will be walking east when you think you're going west. This generation, especially of our peo-



"It's time for us to organize and band together and equip ourselves and qualify ourselves to protect ourselves," Malcolm X told youth from Mississippi visiting New York City. Above: Self-defense units in Monroe, North Carolina, organized by NAACP local chapter president Robert F. Williams, beat back Ku Klux Klan terror in late 1950s. Inset: Malcolm X speaking at Barnard College in New York, Feb. 18, 1965.



ple, has a burden, more so than any other time in history. The most important thing that we can learn to do today is think for ourselves.

It's good to keep wide-open ears and listen to what everybody else has to say, but when you come to make a decision, you have to weigh all of what you've heard on its own, and place it where it belongs, and come to a decision for yourself; you'll never regret it. But if you form the habit of taking what someone else says about a thing without checking it out for yourself, you'll find that other people will have you hating your friends and loving your enemies. This is one of the things that our people are beginning to learn today—that it is very important to think out a situation for yourself. If you don't do it, you'll always be maneuvered into a situation where you are never fighting your actual enemies, where you will find yourself fighting your own self. . . .

As long as you think you're alone, then you take a stand as if you're a minority or as if you're outnumbered, and that kind of stand will never enable you to win a battle. You've got to know that you've got as much power on your side as that Ku Klux Klan has on its side. And when you know that you've got as

much power on your side as the Klan has on its side, you'll talk the same kind of language with that Klan as the Klan is talking with you. . . .

I think in 1965, whether you like it, or I like it, or they like it, or not, you will see that there is a generation of black people becoming mature to the point where they feel that they have no more business being asked to take a peaceful approach than anybody else takes, unless everybody's going to take a peaceful approach.

So we here in the Organization of Afro-American Unity are with the struggle in Mississippi one thousand per cent. We're with the efforts to register our people in Mississippi to vote one thousand per cent. But we do not go along with anybody telling us to help nonviolently. We think that if the government says that Negroes have a right to vote, and then some Negroes come out to vote, and some kind of Ku Klux Klan is going to put them in the river, and the government doesn't do anything about it, it's time for us to organize and band together and equip ourselves and qualify ourselves to protect ourselves. And once you can protect yourself, you don't have to worry about being hurt. . . .

If you don't have enough people down there to do it, we'll come down there and help you do it. Because we're tired of this old runaround that our people have been given in this country. For a long time they accused me of not getting involved in politics. They should've been glad I didn't get involved in politics, because anything I get in, I'm in it all the way. If they say we don't take part in the Mississippi struggle, we will organize brothers here in New York who know how to handle these kind of affairs, and they'll slip into Mississippi like Jesus slipped into Jerusalem.

That doesn't mean we're against white people, but we sure are against the Ku Klux Klan and the White Citizens Councils; and anything that looks like it's against us, we're against it. Excuse me for raising my voice, but this thing, you know, gets me upset. Imagine that—a country that's supposed to be a democracy, supposed to be for freedom and all of that kind of stuff when they want to draft you and put you in the army and send you to Saigon to fight for them—and then you've got to turn around and all night long discuss how you're going to just get a right to register and vote without being murdered. Why, that's the most hypocritical government since the world began! . . .

I hope you don't think I'm trying to incite you. Just look here: Look at yourselves. Some of you are teen-agers, students. How do you think I feel—and I belong to a generation ahead of you—how do you think I feel to have to tell you, "We, my generation, sat around like a knot on a wall while the whole world was fighting for its human rights—and you've got to be born into a society where you still have that same fight." What did we do, who preceded you? I'll tell you what we did: Nothing. And don't you make the same mistake we made. . . .

You get freedom by letting your enemy know that you'll do anything to get your freedom; then you'll get it. It's the only way you'll get it. When you get that kind of attitude, they'll label you as a "crazy Negro," or they'll call you a "crazy nigger"—they don't say Negro. Or they'll call you an extremist or a subversive, or seditious, or a red or a radical. But when you stay radical long enough, and get enough people to be like you, you'll get your freedom. . . .

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May

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# Not ‘secure’ for the working class

The so-called Secure Communities program being aggressively pursued by the Barack Obama administration is part of a broader assault on the political rights of the working class. It is an example of the accelerating erosion of legal protections working people have against the capitalist state.

Under Secure Communities the fingerprints of any individual picked up by the cops—whether facing charges or not—are sent to the FBI, which passes them along to the Department of Homeland Security. This gives the bosses, cops, and courts yet another database to use to blacklist workers who refuse to go along with speedup, unsafe working conditions, mounting layoffs, and wage cuts; to target those who stand up against racist attacks and for immigrant rights; and to hound anyone who speaks and acts against government policy.

Like various trial balloons to establish a national ID card, Secure Communities targets not only immigrants but all working people. It is of a piece with the rising number of “national security letters” that provide “legal” cover for FBI agents to snoop into people’s financial transactions and phone records, on the grounds there is a “national security” connection. The FBI recently reported that the number of people targeted by these letters doubled last year to more than 14,000.

A growing number of police chiefs—as well as liberal politicians like Illinois governor Pat Quinn and state legislators in California and New York—are against participating in Secure Communities. Their opposition does not reflect support for immigrant rights, however. They are worried the program will further erode confidence in the cops. “We rely heavily on the trust and cooperation of all community members—including immigrants—to come forward and report crimes,” says San Francisco sheriff Michael Hennessey. The Secure Communities program “violates this hard-earned trust.”

Presenting himself as a champion of immigration “reform,” President Obama has prioritized militarizing the U.S.-Mexico border. “We have strengthened border security beyond what many believed was possible,” he boasted in El Paso, Texas, May 10. “We now have more boots on the ground on the southwest border than any time in our history.” That’s 20,000 border cops, double the figure in 2004.

Working people should reject Secure Communities and capitalist immigration “reform.” We must call for a halt to deportations and legalization of all undocumented workers—*now*, and with no strings attached.

## Socialist workers to hold conference

**Continued from front page**

from those who are engaged in activity to advance working-class interests and who want to learn more about and consider joining the communist movement.

The conference will culminate the international campaign to win 2,000 or more subscribers to the *Militant* newspaper. The experiences, accomplishments, and conclusions from that effort to sell the paper in working-class neighborhoods and on the job will be registered at the conference.

The conference will feature three days of discussion on world politics, the effects of the capitalist crisis on working people around the world, and a perspective to fight. There will be presentations by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, and other communist leaders; panels featuring socialist

workers involved in resistance by working people to the capitalist assault and efforts to bring a revolutionary working-class perspective to workers and farmers; and educational classes on a variety of political questions.

On June 12, supporters of the communist movement will hold workshops to discuss their work in helping to maintain the publishing program of Pathfinder books.

Participation in the gathering is being organized by branches of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States and of Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. Readers of the *Militant* interested in attending are urged to contact local organizers listed in the directory on page 8.

## LETTERS

### Nebraska frame-ups

At the May 7 meeting of Nebraskans for Justice, held at the Malcolm X Foundation Center, plans were made to hold a national gathering to build ongoing support for Ed Poindexter and Mondo we Langa.

Poindexter and we Langa (formerly David Rice) were leaders of the Black Panther chapter in Omaha, Nebraska, in the 1960s and became targets of the Omaha police and the FBI under the U.S. government’s Cointelpro (Counterintelligence) programs. They were active in protests demanding justice for the killings and harassment of Blacks by Omaha cops.

Both men have been imprisoned for over 40 years, serving life sentences at the Nebraska

State Penitentiary on frame-up charges of killing an Omaha policeman.

The 41st anniversary of Ed’s and Mondo’s arrest is coming up at the end of the summer and a nationwide Truth and Reconciliation Commission will be organized on behalf of all the victims of Cointelpro. The event will take place September 17 at the Malcolm X Center, 3448 Evans Street, near the birth site of Malcolm X in Omaha.

Lastly, I want to thank the *Militant* for printing the Dec. 20, 2010, article on the 40-year fight to free Ed and Mondo. The article led to new support and renewing past supporters from years ago.

For more information, you can contact Nebraskans for Justice at P.O. Box 11725, Omaha, NE 68111

or email comments@nebraskansforjustice.com

Mary Dickinson, vice president, Nebraskans for Justice, Lincoln, Nebraska

### Let strikers starve?

A bill in Congress called H.R. 1135 is a sharp attack on workers and their families. The bill aims to further restrict who is eligible for food stamps, and one section spells out special punishment for workers who go on strike. A family currently receiving food stamps would be cut off if one member of the household goes on strike. If a worker is fired for striking against the federal, state or local government, the family is likewise ineligible for food stamps, because the worker “voluntarily quit without good cause,” according to the bill. K. Denny Oakland, California

**The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.**

## Unemployment

**Continued from front page**

with his typical detachment from what the working class is facing. Speaking to Allison Transmission workers in Indianapolis May 6, he dismissed the fact that millions remain jobless and their numbers are growing, saying, “There are always going to be some ups and downs like these as we come out of a recession.” The well-paid middle-class and professional layers Obama comes from ride out these “ups and downs” just fine.

By Washington’s own figures, the number of jobs today is lower than in December 2007. Obama’s economic adviser Austan Goolsbee says working people should just tough it out and not expect an improvement in take-home pay for some time.

When you add in workers who’ve gone so long without finding a job that they’ve stopped looking for now—plus those working part time against their will—even the government’s understated numbers put unemployment at above 16 percent.

### ‘Transitory’ slowdown?

Figures released April 28 show that already sluggish economic growth slowed in early 2011. And prices, especially of food and gasoline, keep climbing. Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke says the slowdown is just “transitory” and inflation still “subdued.”

But the crisis is not “transitory” for millions of workers now in their third year of high unemployment, lower wages, and fewer, if any, benefits. In Ohio, once a center of industry, 15.2 percent of the population lives below the official poverty level, the highest rate in 50 years. The poverty rate is 36 percent in Youngstown and 25 percent in Columbus, the *Columbus Dispatch* reported. Workers in Michigan and some southern states confront worse conditions, according to the paper.

In early May, gasoline averaged close to \$4 a gallon, as high as \$4.25 in California. Dairy goods were up 15 percent in just the last month. Meat is up 7 percent in the last year.

As members of Congress debate how to “reduce the federal deficit”—code words for slashing social programs working people need now more than ever—Democratic and Republican politicians alike reveal how remote they are from the living conditions of U.S. workers.

“Listening to the debate in Washington, you’d think the nation was absorbed by the compelling saga of deficit reduction,” wrote Eugene Robinson in an April 25 column in the *Washington Post*. “You’d get the impression that in households across America, parents put their children to bed and then stay up half the night sifting through piles of think-tank reports on the kitchen table, trying to calculate whether there will be enough in the Social Security trust fund to pay benefits beyond 2037.

“And you’d be wrong. Those parents are looking at a pile of bills on the kitchen table, trying to decide which ones have to be paid now and which can slide. The question isn’t how to manage health care or retirement costs two decades from now. It’s how the family can make it to the end of the month.”

### ‘Housing crisis’ continues

Over the past two years, apologists for the wealthy U.S. ruling families have trumpeted a modest turnaround in home sales and prices as light at the end of the tunnel. But home prices in April “have almost completely retreated from the gains they posted from May 2009 through June 2010,” CBS MarketWatch reported. Sales of new single-family houses have sunk to the lowest number since data was first collected in 1963.

In the Chicago area, where 10 million people live, new-home sales have plunged 90 percent. Only about 65 new houses are sold a week.

One home builder in the Chicago suburb of Richmond, Kim Meier, sold only 20 new houses all last year. Beginning this March he has sold seven. How did he do it? Everyone who buys a house gets a free car. His wife Sally jokes Meiers’s next promotion may have to be “Buy one, get one free.”

And that’s just the housing crisis of the capitalists and their real estate sellers and landlords, large and small. The true “housing crisis” is that of millions of working people seeking to find or hold onto a spacious, affordable place to live.

### ‘Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund

*The Prisoners’ Fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced-rate subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the ‘Militant’ and earmarked “Prisoners’ Fund” to 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018.*